

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

22 October 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: NSAM 368 (Intelligence Information Handling System)

This report is submitted in response to a memorandum from Mr. Rostow, dated 8 May 1968, which requested (1) a more definitive picture of the projected intelligence community-wide information handling system; (2) a report on progress made by individual departments and agencies in the development of information handling systems which meet their respective needs and fulfill the requirements of the projected over-all system; (3) the estimated costs, allocated to successive phases of the development of the community-wide system; (4) a more precise estimate as to the time phasing; and (5) information responsive to requests set forth in NSAM 368 which were enumerated in the first paragraph of the memorandum.

Attachment A hereto is a preliminary effort toward developing a plan for improving information handling in the intelligence community, prepared in consultation with the United States Intelligence Board. My previous memorandum on this subject, of

22 April 1968, indicated that the requisite community-wide system would follow from the continuous improvement and integration of component agency systems. Attachment A translates this concept into a number of actions or subplans involving community management; community requirements; component system inventory; selection, development, and integration of component systems; standardization of common data elements and codes; education, training, and documentation; and development of community experimental/trial information handling services.

The steps called for in Attachment A set up an orderly process for combining existing and presently proposed systems, together with such additions as may be required, into a system to serve community needs better. They identify the need for, and nature of, adjustments to existing subsystems which would improve over-all community information handling performance and efficiency without jeopardizing on-going intelligence support operations. Because we are dealing with operating information handling systems which currently are providing support to the members of the intelligence community, care must be exercised in proposing and in effecting necessary adjustments.

Your attention is invited to Attachment B which summarizes projects at the several intelligence agencies and describes a number

of proposals for improvement of information handling that may be applicable to the community problem. These efforts and others noted in the Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) Annual Report (previously submitted to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board on 9 September 1968) indicate the progress which has been made in meeting individual agency needs and in satisfying community-wide requirements.

The problems involved in improving established intelligence information data handling operations are complex, and solutions may be costly. Additional study is necessary before I can respond to your request to time phase the development of the improved community information handling system or to provide cost estimates. I shall be pleased to keep you informed as progress is made on costing and scheduling. In addition, I propose that the IHC Annual Report (which will be updated by a summary progress report at the end of the calendar year) be accepted in the future as a normal means of reporting on community information handling activity.

Richard Helms

Richard Helms

Attachments
A and B

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Memorandum for the President
w/Attachments A & B only

Distribution:

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